(Admission Matters)		(Regular Matters)	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
(Actual number of files)			
486	107	720	41

(b) and (c) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court is due to various complex factors and the Supreme Court has taken various steys to expedite the disposal of cases, which include more practical categorisation and classification of cases, stabilisation of Benches, avoiding delisting as far as possible, ensuring non-accumulation of defective matters and prompt listing of cases.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

2301. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 will apply only to cases where a request for reference to arbitration is received by respondent on or after 25th January, 1996;

(b) whether as a direct result of this claimants would be deprived of benefits of new Act in large number of cases where arbitrator has not been appointed under old Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to clarify that word "commenced" in Section 85(2)(a) of new Act means commencement of arbitral proceedings when an arbitrator indicates his willingness to act as arbitrator so as to give benefit of new Act to all persons going for arbitration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes; Sir.

However, if the parties have agreed so, the new Act will apply even in cases where such request has been received by respondent prior to 25 January, 1996.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) In view of the clear provisions contained in Section 85(2) read with Section 21 of the Act, no amendment is necesssary in the provision.

Election duty by employees of PSUs

2302. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has requested Government to empower the Commission to mobilise the employees of PSUs and autonomous bodies aided by Government for election duties as also to provide that employees of such bodies including local bodies could also be deployed for election duties outside their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) what action Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties.